

BOBBIE

CARLA

MICHAEL

ELEANOR

**BOBBI:** It's too bad about Mr. Marley.

25 **CARLA:** Yeah. Too bad.

**BOBBI:** Now, he's gone.

**MICHAEL:** Dead as a doornail.

**BOBBI:** Dead as a what?

30 **MICHAEL:** A doornail. Dead as a doornail. Our English teacher taught us that.

**CARLA:** Yeah. It's like that book she made us read!

**BOBBI:** Oh, I think I missed that class.

**CARLA:** Poor Mr. Marley. He was so mean that even the food court would clear out whenever he'd go there for lunch.

35 **MICHAEL:** I never even knew what the guy looked like. He'd always look away whenever I'd talk to him. Even the customers thought he was weird.

1 **BOBBI:** But now Mr. Marley isn't our boss, and we have to come here during Christmas break and work for Eleanor Scrooge. And she still only pays us minimum wage!

**CARLA:** Yeah. Bad-mood Scrooge. Doesn't that woman ever smile?

5 **MICHAEL:** She's probably afraid her face will crack. (*WORKERS giggle and laugh.*)

**BOBBI:** (*Looks at the office door.*) Wait! Quiet! Here she comes! (*WORKERS rush to the shelves and look busy.*)

10 **ELEANOR:** (*ENTERS UP CENTER.*) I heard laughter. I hate hearing laughter. There's no room for laughter in a gift shop. You hear me?

**BOBBI:** But it's Christmastime, Eleanor.

**ELEANOR:** Christmas? Bah! Humbug!

**BOBBI:** (*To OTHER WORKERS.*) Bah? Humbug?

**MICHAEL:** Our English teacher taught us that, too.

15 **BOBBI:** Oh.

**ELEANOR:** Now, work like you mean it! (*Crosses to the counter. CARLA and MICHAEL signal for BOBBI to approach ELEANOR.*)

**BOBBI:** (*Approaches ELEANOR, hesitant.*) Uh, excuse me, Eleanor?

**ELEANOR:** Don't you have shelves to restock?

20 **BOBBI:** Yes, but...

**ELEANOR:** Cleaning to do?

**BOBBI:** Yes, but...

25 **ELEANOR:** "Yes, but" nothing. Go. Shoo. Work! (*BOBBI rushes back to CARLA and MICHAEL, who shake their heads and push her back toward ELEANOR.*) What now?

**BOBBI:** Uh, it's Christmas Eve, and you're forcing us to work late tonight even though the mall management decided employees should be home with their families so the rest of the mall closed early.

30 **ELEANOR:** Yeah. So?